PAVING THE WAY

London Borough of Camden

PHOTOGRAPH/ED BARBER

STREETWORKS TO HELP PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

HELPING PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES

This booklet explains the measures that are being introduced by Camden Planning and Transport Department to improve conditions for people with disabilities. At the end of the booklet there is space for you to express your views to the Council about this work.

WHAT SORT OF HELP IS NEEDED?

There are many different improvements that can be made to our streets which can help people with disabilities to be more mobile.

For blind or partially sighted people a street can be a dangerous obstacle course of lamp posts, bollards and dangerous crossing points. Others, such as wheelchair users, elderly people or children and their carers all experience varying degrees of difficulty in getting around, especially when faced with high kerbs to climb up and down.

PAVING IMPROVEMENTS

Uneven pavements, cracked and lifting paving stones, potholes and raised inspection covers can be a danger to many people. Camden Council is improving the standard of paving around the Borough.

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DROPPED KERBS

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▲ *One of the many dropped kerbs in Camden High Street.*

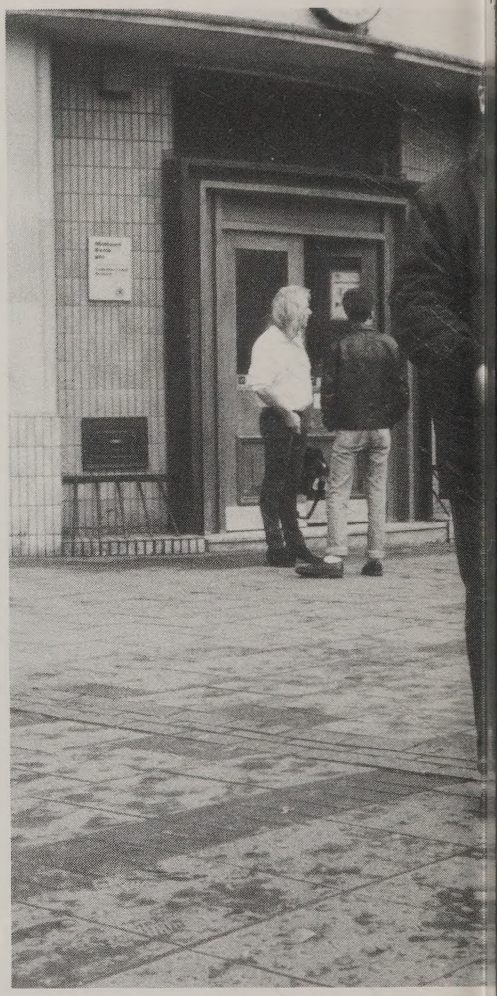
Dropped kerbs are places along the pavement where the kerb is ramped down to the level of the road. They allow wheelchair users, people with walking disabilities or those pushing prams and shopping trolleys to cross a road without having to negotiate high kerbs which may be difficult or dangerous for them. Camden Council intends to introduce dropped kerbs throughout the Borough.

TEXTURED PAVING

Textured or Tactile paving, has been designed by the Department of Transport to help blind and partially sighted people know when they are at a road crossing point.

The paving slabs are red in colour and the surface has 'bobbles' sticking up so that it can be easily felt through the soles of shoes, or detected with a stick. They are laid in a 'T' shape at safe crossings such as zebras and pelicans. The kerbline is marked in white.

The texture of the slabs indicates where the crossing point is and the angle to cross the road. When used at dropped kerbs the paving provides a clear distinction between the pavement and the road so reducing the possibility of a person inadvertently wandering out into the road and oncoming traffic. The contrasting colour of paving and white edging is an additional means of helping partially sighted people to find road crossing points.



▲ *Blind man identifies textured surfac underfoot.*

▲ *He then aligns with the direction of*

PHOTOGRAPH/ED BARBER

long cane stick and also detects it

PHOTOGRAPH/ED BARBER

ossing, waits behind the white kerb. . .

PHOTOGRAPH/ED BARBER

▲ . . .and crosses when it is safe to do so.

BOLLARDS

PHOTOGRAPH/JOHN COGILL

▲ *Specially painted bollards in Grafton Place can be seen by partially sighted people and also keep the footpath clear of vehicles.*

Bollards are placed by the kerb to keep vehicles off the pavement. Lorries and cars parked on the pavement cause damage to the surface and also reduce the width of pavement available for pedestrians. A clear pavement is of particular benefit for blind and partially sighted people, wheelchair users and children and their carers.

Where bollards are a similar colour to the pavement, people who have partial sight cannot always see them. Camden Council is introducing bollards painted in contrasting colours to overcome this problem.

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

There are many other measures that can be introduced to assist people with disabilities out in the street:

► Redesigning pedestrian islands can provide a crossing point on a single level.

► Where small access roads cross the footpath the level of footpath can be raised to provide a pedestrian route on a single level.

► Specially designed toilets, telephone kiosks and seating can be provided to meet the differing needs of people with disabilities.

► Initiatives will be pursued to provide ramps into shops and improve access to all public buildings.

► In many streets sign posts, waste bins, and shop signs etc are often in the way of pedestrians. Camden Council is attempting to reduce and rationalise the amount of clutter and clear the pavements for pedestrians.

Camden Council would like to receive your views on the measures that are being introduced to assist people with disabilities. If you have any comments or suggestions please fill in this section and send it to the address below.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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